

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/531,948

Applicant(s)

TAMURA, MASAKI

Examiner

Warren K. Fenwick

Art Unit

2862

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments filed on 07/23/2007 and 08/08/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/23/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


PATRICK ASSOUD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Examiner has acknowledged and reviewed applicant's submission (on 7/23/2007) of Tables 1-4, which were missing from applicant's submitted original specification. Also, examiner has acknowledged applicant's statement (submitted on 08/08/2007) that the amended specification (submitted by applicant on 7/23/07) contains no new matter. Examiner has thereby withdrawn the objections to applicant's specification.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 07/23/2007 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the IDS is being considered by the examiner.

Reasons for Allowance

3. Examiner has acknowledged and reviewed applicant's remarks on the first non-final office action. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-16 is the claim language found in claims 1, 4, 9, and 12, for an imaging device equipped with a zoom lens having a plurality of lens groups and varying in power in response to variation in intervals between the lens groups, which comprises a reflecting member to bend the optical axis passing through the lens groups, and also equipped with an imaging element to convert the optical images formed by said zoom lens into electrical signals, and a last lens group (counted from the object side) which is composed of a negative lens group and a

Art Unit: 2862

positive lens group, with an air layer interposed between them (arranged sequentially from the object side) in combination with all of the other claim limitations in total.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone Numbers

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Warren K. Fenwick whose telephone number is 571-270-3040. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 8:30A to 6:00P, Eastern Time (GMT-5).

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick J. Assouad can be reached on 571-272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

Art Unit: 2862

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

WKF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Assouad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**PATRICK ASSOUD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**